

Application Ranking Summary

County GL

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: County GL		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)

6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. G - Answer YES if applicant has NEVER had an EQIP contract? (30 points)	30 Point(s)
2. GL1 - Is the applicant implementing cross fence to establish or enhance a prescribed grazing system where pastures are allowed to rest at least 80% of the grazing cycle on more than half of all the grazing lands offered acres? Example: Five pasture grazing system. Full grazing cycle is 50 days with a maximum of 10 consecutive days on each pasture. Pastures are resting 40 consecutive days. If the answer is yes then the answers to questions GL2 and GL3 must be no. (27 points)	27 Point(s)
3. GL2 - Is the applicant implementing cross fencing to establish or enhance a prescribed grazing system where pastures are allowed to rest at least 75% of the grazing cycle on more than half of all the grazing lands offered acres? Example: Four pasture grazing system. Full grazing cycle is 56 days, with a maximum of 14 consecutive days on each pasture. Pastures are resting 42 consecutive days before grazing begins. If the answer is yes then the answers to questions GL1 and GL3 must be no. (22 points)	22 Point(s)
4. GL3 - Is the applicant implementing cross fencing to establish or enhance a prescribed grazing system where pastures are allowed to rest at least 66% of the grazing cycle on more than half of all the grazing lands offered acres? Example: Three pasture grazing system. Full grazing cycle is 42 days with a maximum of 14 consecutive days on each pasture. Pastures are resting 27 consecutive days before grazing begins. If the answer is yes then the answers to questions GL1 and GL2 must be no. (18 points)	18 Point(s)
5. GL4 - Is the applicant willing to establish and maintain at least twenty percent (maximum of 20 acres to be established or whichever is less) of grazeable acres of native warm season grasses as part of a prescribed grazing system? Grasses include one or more of the following: switchgrass, eastern gamagrass, big bluestem, little bluestem, or indiangrass. (5 points)	5 Point(s)

6. GL5 - On eligible sites, is the applicant willing to establish perennial legumes into perennial cool season or annual or perennial into warm season grass pasture land or hayland to improve forage quality and quantity, supplying nitrogen and promoting energy conservation? If legumes exist, to qualify, the stand of perennial legumes must not exceed 25% uniform coverage. (6 points)	6 Point(s)
7. GL6 - Has applicant attended a Grazing School/Clinic sponsored by the Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition, NRCS, Cooperative Extension, University, or Cattlemen's Association in Alabama or other states? (4 points)	4 Point(s)
8. GL8 - Is applicant implementing treatment of critically eroding areas in the offered fields in pasture, hayland, silvopasture? All critically eroding areas in the offered fields must be properly treated. (13 Points)	13 Point(s)
9. GL9 - Is applicant willing to install seep/spring development(s), pumping plants, or pond(s) for livestock water to facilitate prescribed grazing? If this water source is chosen, then other water sources should receive a "no" answer. (5 Points)	5 Point(s)
10. GL10 - Is applicant willing to install well and/or pipeline and trough(s) for livestock water to facilitate prescribed grazing? If this water source is chosen then other water sources should receive a "no" answer. (17 Points)	17 Point(s)
11. GL11 - Is applicant willing to establish heavy use area protection (HUA) for areas that have been damaged by livestock or establish animal trails, walkways, streams or access roads as part of a prescribed grazing system? Examples: existing watering facilities, streams without HUA, whether trough or pond, or static feeding areas. Livestock will be fenced from pond(s) except at site of HUA livestock entrance. Constructed fencing will result in at least 2 grazing zones giving forages rest for regrowth. This should not be used for maintenance of existing fences or HUA's. (Do not answer yes to new watering facility.)(12 Points)	12 Point(s)

13. Applicant commits to control Japanese Climbing fern or Multi-flora Rose that are on the offered land? If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no. (9 points)	9 Point(s)
14. Applicant commits to control Kudzu, McCartney Rose, Cherokee Rose or Chinese Tallow Tree that are present on the offered land? If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no? (7 points)	7 Point(s)
15. The infestation(s) by all eligible species occupy 10% or less of management tract, field or area? If answer to 15 is Yes, then answer to 16 will be NO. (12 points)	12 Point(s)
16. The infestation(s) by all eligible species occupy > 10% of management tract, field or area? If the answer to 16 is YES, the answer to 15 will be NO. (5 points)	5 Point(s)
17. In areas where eligible invasive species will be controlled, will applicant establish native grasses on the treated area to protect it from erosion? (4 points)	4 Point(s)
18. Is the predominance of treated acres in land capability classes Ie or Iie? If answer to this question is Yes, then answers to 19 and 20 will be NO. (1 point)	1 Point(s)
19. Is the predominance of treated acres in land capability classes IIIe or IVe? If answer to this question is YES then answers to 18 and 20 will be NO. (2 points)	2 Point(s)
20. Is the predominance of treated acres in land capability classes greater then IVe? If the answer to this question is YES, then answers to 19 and 19 will be NO. (5 point)	5 Point(s)
21. Will the offered acres address water quality impairments? Must be in a 12 digit watershed with a stream segment on the ADEM 303d list due to pollution from agricultural source (GIS layer "AL2016 303d_line") or a TMDL stream with an agricultural related pollutant (GIS layer "2016_AL_approved_TMDLs_lines")? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
22. Will the offered acres benefit T&E aquatic species within a Strategic Habitat Unit (GIS polygon layer "SHUs" or within 1 mile upstream of Critical Habitat (GIS layer "crithab_line")? (10 points)	10 Point(s)

23. GL12 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "outstanding" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems. (10 points)	10 Point(s)
24. GL13 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "very good" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems. (5 points)	5 Point(s)
25. GL14 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "good" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems. (1 points)	1 Point(s)
26. GL15 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "fair" or "unsuitable" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems. (-50 points)	-50 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
TBD	250 Point(s)

Land Use:**Pasture;**

Resource Concerns	Practices
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Brush Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Access Road
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Critical Area Planting
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Diversion
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Forage and Biomass Planting
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Grade Stabilization Structure
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Prescribed Grazing
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Land Clearing
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Land Smoothing
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Mulching
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Brush Management
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Fence
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Herbaceous Weed Control
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Nutrient Management
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Prescribed Grazing
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Riparian Forest Buffer
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Silvopasture Establishment
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Shelter	Tree/Shrub Establishment

Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Livestock Pipeline
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Livestock Shelter Structure
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Pond
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Pumping Plant
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Roof Runoff Structure
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Spring Development
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Stream Crossing
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Water Well
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Watering Facility
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Prescribed Grazing
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Prescribed Grazing
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Prescribed Grazing
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Heavy Use Area Protection
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Integrated Pest Management
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Stream Crossing
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Water and Sediment Control Basin
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Water Well Decommissioning

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: